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Office of the Chief Immigration Judge Leadership

The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ) is led by the chief immigration judge, who establishes operating policies and oversees policy implementation for the immigration courts. OCIJ provides overall program direction and establishes priorities for approximately 250 immigration judges located in 58 immigration courts throughout the Nation.

Biographical Information

Print Maggard, Chief Immigration Judge (Acting)

Print Maggard was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in January 2012. Judge Maggard received a bachelor of arts degree in 1982 from Western Kentucky University; a masters of public administration in 1987 from Golden Gate University; a juris doctorate in 1990 from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law; and a master of laws degree in environmental law in 1999 from the George Washington University. From May 2009 to December 2011, Judge Maggard served as an immigration judge at the San Francisco Immigration Court. From July 2006 to April 2009, he served as an assistant chief counsel for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in San Francisco. From July 1985 to July 2006, he served in the U.S. Air Force in various capacities including military judge; regional counsel; deputy regional counsel; deputy chief circuit defense counsel; area defense counsel; chief, military justice; and a member of the adjunct faculty at the Air Force Judge Advocate's School. Judge Maggard is a member of the State Bar of California.

Edward F. Kelly, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge

Edward F. Kelly was appointed as deputy chief immigration judge in March 2013. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1982 and a juris doctorate in 1987, both from the University of Notre Dame. From March 2011 to March 2013, Judge Kelly served as an assistant chief immigration judge. From November 2009 to March 2011, Judge Kelly served as senior counsel and chief of staff for the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ), Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). From 2007 to 2009, he was counsel for operations for OCIJ. From 1998 to 2007, Judge Kelly was a senior legal advisor for the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), EOIR. From 1995 to 1998, he served as a supervisory attorney and team leader for the BIA. From 1989 to 1993 and again from 1994 to 1995, Judge Kelly was an attorney advisor for the BIA. From 1987 to 1989, he served as an assistant counsel, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. From 1982

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to 1984, he served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Gabon, Africa. Judge Kelly is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Michael C. McGoings, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge

Michael C. McGoings was appointed as deputy chief immigration judge in October 2009. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1965 from Morgan State University, a master of science degree in 1967 from the University of Illinois and a juris doctorate in 1973 from the Catholic University of America. From March 1995 to October 2009, Judge McGoings served as an assistant chief immigration judge. During this time, from February to July 2009, he served as acting chief immigration judge. From 1994 to 1995, Judge McGoings was an associate general counsel serving as chief of the Enforcement Legal Program and from 1991 to 1994, he was an associate general counsel for the Employer Sanctions and Civil Document Fraud Legal Program at the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). From 1987 to 1990, he worked as assistant general counsel for the former INS. Judge McGoings is a member of the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania bars.

Christopher A. Santoro, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge (Acting)

Christopher A. Santoro was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in March 2012. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1991 from Tufts University and a juris doctorate in 1994 from the Boston University School of Law. In 2013, Judge Santoro was appointed the chief trial judge for the Air Force Reserve following assignments as a military trial judge and deputy chief judge from 2005 to 2013. He is also an associate judge on the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. From 2009 to 2011, he served as special advisor, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2005 to 2009, Judge Santoro served in leadership roles including counsel, deputy director and senior advisor within the Office of Inspection, Transportation Security Administration, DHS. From 2001 to 2005, Judge Santoro was a trial attorney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice. He entered active duty with the U.S. Air Force in 1995 and served as a senior regional prosecutor and appellate attorney until 2001. From 1988 to 1995, Judge Santoro was a patrol officer with the Wolfeboro, New Hampshire Police Department. Judge Santoro is a member of the New Hampshire, Colorado and District of Columbia bars.

Rico J. Bartolomei, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Rico J. Bartolomei was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ) in April 2012, based in San Diego. Judge Bartolomei received a bachelor of arts degree in 1983 from the University of Notre Dame and a juris doctorate in 1986 from Georgetown University Law Center. From January 2009 to April 2012, and previously from September 1994 to October 2006, Judge Bartolomei served as an immigration judge at the San Diego Immigration Court. From October 2006 to January 2009, Judge Bartolomei served as an ACIJ, based in San Diego. From 1991 to 1994, he served as a staff attorney for the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review. From 1987 to 1991, he worked as an attorney with the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Judge Bartolomei is a member of the Massachusetts and District of Columbia bars.

John W. Davis, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

John W. Davis was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in April 2012, based in Denver. Judge Davis received a bachelor of arts degree in 1980 from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, a juris doctorate in 1987 from Creighton University and a master of laws degree in international law in 1997 from the Army Judge Advocate General's School. From June 2008 to April 2012, Judge Davis served as an immigration judge at the Denver immigration court. From September 2002 to June 2008, Judge Davis served as an immigration judge at the Eloy Immigration Court. From January 2002 to September 2002, Judge Davis served as an immigration judge at the Los Angeles Immigration Court. From November 1999 to January 2002, he was an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in Eloy. From December 1987 to November 1999, Judge Davis served in the U.S. Air Force, holding various positions, including chief, international and operations law, 12th Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.; deputy staff judge advocate, 20th Fighter Wing, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; and circuit trial counsel, Yokota Air Force Base, Japan. Judge Davis is a member of the Nebraska State and Arizona State bars.

Jill H. Dufresne, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Jill H. Dufresne was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ) in August 2010. From November 2009 to August 2010, she served as an acting ACIJ. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1975 from American University and a juris doctorate in 1978 from the University of Virginia. From 1998 to 2009, Judge Dufresne served as an immigration judge at the Baltimore Immigration Court. From 1990 to 1998 she served as an ACIJ, working several months as acting chief immigration judge. From 1978 to 1990, Judge Dufresne served in various positions including associate general counsel, assistant district counsel and trial attorney at the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. Judge Dufresne is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Thomas Y. K. Fong, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Thomas Y. K. Fong was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in October 2006, based in Los Angeles. He received a bachelor of science degree in 1972 from Brigham Young University and a juris doctorate in 1977 from Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School. From October 1984 to October 2006, Judge Fong served as an immigration judge at the Los Angeles Immigration Court. In 1977, Judge Fong joined the Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honors Program serving as a trial attorney with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in Los Angeles. From 1982 to 1984, Judge Fong was an appellate trial attorney and chief legal officer at the former INS, also in Los Angeles. From 1972 to 1978, he served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. Judge Fong is a member of the Hawaii Bar.

Stephen S. Griswold, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge (Acting)

Stephen S. Griswold was appointed as an immigration judge in January 2005, based in San Francisco. Judge Griswold received a bachelor of arts degree in 1978 from Wesleyan University, Connecticut, and a juris doctorate in 1985 from the George Washington University

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National Law Center. From March 2010 to July 2015, and previously from January 2005 to October 2006, Judge Griswold served as an immigration judge at the San Francisco Immigration Court. From October 2006 to February 2010, Judge Griswold served as an assistant chief immigration judge at the San Francisco Immigration Court. From 1996 to 2004, he worked as a senior legal advisor and senior panel attorney on the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Executive Office for Immigration Review. From 1989 to 1996, Judge Griswold was a staff attorney at the BIA. From 1986 to 1989, he was in private practice in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. Judge Griswold is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

MaryBeth Keller, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

MaryBeth Keller was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ) in February 2008, with primary responsibility for issues of conduct and professionalism relating to immigration judges. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1984 from the Catholic University of America and a juris doctorate in 1987 from the University of Virginia School of Law. From 2004 to February 2008, Judge Keller served as general counsel at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). During that time, from July 2006 to February 2008, she served as acting ACIJ for Conduct and Professionalism, and from October 2004 to April 2006, she served as acting chief administrative hearing officer. From 1988 to 2004, Judge Keller served as a senior panel attorney and as an attorney advisor at the Board of Immigration Appeals, EOIR. From 1987 to 1988, she worked as a law clerk in the 5th Judicial District of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa. Judge Keller is a member of the Iowa Bar.

Deepali Nadkarni, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Deepali Nadkarni was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in March 2011. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1991 from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and a juris doctorate in 1994 from Emory University School of Law. From October 1995 to March 2011, Judge Nadkarni served in various capacities, including attorney advisor, supervisory attorney-examiner and senior panel attorney at the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review. From 1994 to 1995, she worked as a judicial law clerk entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Nadkarni is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Elisa M. Sukkar, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Elisa M. Sukkar was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in April 2008, based in Miami. She received a bachelor of science degree in 1983 from Florida International University and a juris doctorate in 1987 from Nova Law School. From March 1995 to April 2008, Judge Sukkar served as an immigration judge at the Miami Immigration Court. From 1987 to 1995, she was in private practice in Miami where she specialized in immigration law. Judge Sukkar is a member of the Florida Bar.

Jack H. Weil, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Jack H. Weil was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge (ACIJ) in December 2009, with responsibility for training immigration judges, court administrators, interpreters, legal

technicians and judicial law clerks. From April to December 2009, he served as an acting ACIJ for training immigration judges. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1985 and a juris doctorate in 1988, both from the University of Maryland. From 1994 to 2009, Judge Weil served as an immigration judge at the El Centro Immigration Court. From 1990 to 1994, he worked as associate counsel to the director, Executive Office for Immigration Review. From 1988 to 1990, Judge Weil was a judicial law clerk at the San Diego Immigration Court. In 2001, he joined the faculty of the National Judicial College where he teaches “Bias and Ethics for Administrative Law Judges” and serves as faculty assistant in the course on distance training of judges. He is co-author of “Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges” published by the National Judicial College in 2006. Judge Weil is a member of the Maryland Bar.

Robert D. Weisel, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Robert D. Weisel was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge in January 2012, based in New York. Judge Weisel received a bachelor of arts degree in 1973 from the State University of New York at New Paltz and a juris doctorate in 1976 from Hamline University School of Law. From September 1989 to December 2011, he served as an immigration judge at the New York Immigration Court. From April 1988 to October 1989, he worked as a deputy chief judge for the New York State Workers Compensation Board in Brooklyn. During this time, from October 1988 to June 1989, he worked as an attorney for Cherry, Edson & Kelly in Hempstead, N.Y. From 1984 to April 1988, Judge Weisel was a workers compensation judge for the New York State Workers Compensation Board in Brooklyn. From 1979 to 1984, he served as a staff attorney for the Social Security Administration in Hempstead. Judge Weisel is a member of the New York State Bar.

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